(b) the estimated quantity of such imported cooking coal exhausted by the SAIL for the last three years for power production and the foreign exchange involved therein;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Coal Controller into this excessive use of coal by SAIL;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) what measures are being taken against such coal burning when the country simmers under an annual foreign exchange outgo of Rs. 550 crores only on account of its import?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) Bokaro Steel Plant of Steel Authority of India Ltd. had burnt 59,000 tonnes of indigenous medium coking coal supplied to them for use in their captive power plants during 1990-91 as established by the enquiry held by Coal Controller, Govt. of India, Calcutta.

(b) No imported coking coal was used in the captive power plants of SAIL.

(c) Coal Controller held an enquiry about alleged diversion of medium coking coal (indigenous) in Durgapur and Bokaro Steel Plants of SAIL. In Durgapur Steel Plant no diversion was detected. However, as mentioned above, in Bakaro Steel Plant 59,000 tonnes of this coal was found to have been burnt in the boilers of the captive power plant.

(d) A notice to the Management of Bokaro Steel Plant under Colliery Control Order (framed under Essential Commodities Act) was served by Coal Controller for unauthorised diversion of allotted coking coal. The Management have explained the circumstances in which such diversion was resorted to. The Coal Controller is considering the explanation of Bokaro Steel Plant for taking further necessary action.

(e) All steel plants have been cautioned by the Coal Controller to use coking coal only for the purposes for which it is allotted. He has since obtained written assurances from the managements of the steel plants that no diversion of coking coal will be made for purposes other than that for which it is allotted; without obtaining his permission.

Vijayawada Thermal Power Station Stage III

1061. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vijayawada Thermal Power Station stage III project in Andhra Pradesh has been approved by the Central Government;

(b) if so, what is its estimated cost;

(c) whether the necessary funds have been earmarked for the project; and

(d) by when the work on the project will start and by when the project will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Vijayawada Thermal Power Project Stage-III (2x210 MW) in Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioned by the Planning Commission in February, 1991 at an estimated cost of Rs. 58576 lakhs.

(c) The Working Group in Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 8000 lakhs for this project for the year 1991-92.

(d) The order for the main equipment has been placed on M/s. BHEL in April, 1990. The two units of this project are scheduled to be commissioned by December, 1993 and June, 1994 respectively.